

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JAKART 02482 271206Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 (ISO) W

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R 270920ZMEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6805

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA LTC

AMEMBASSY LISBON

S E C R E T JAKARTA 2482

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PO ID

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE ATTITUDE TOWARD TIMOR

REFS: A. STATE 42852, B. LISBON 1047

1. REFTELS SUGGEST INDONESIAN FEARS OF IMMINENT PORTUGUESE ACTION OR DECISIONS ON FUTURE OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR AT LEAST PREMATURE.

2. WOULD BE HELPFUL HAVE CLEARER IDEA OF WHAT AUSTRALIA INTENDS DO WITH INFORMATION IN STATE 42852. WE CAN CONCEIVE ADVANTAGES FOR AUSTRALIA TO CONVEY THIS INFORMATION AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT TO INDONESIA, NOT WAITING FOR UNCERTAIN MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES WITH INDONESIAN REPRESENTATIVES IN PARIS. IF DEPARTMENT FEELS IT DESIRABLE, WE WOULD BE PREPARED FOLLOW AUSTRALIAN DEMARCHE BY APPROACH TO FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK INDICATING WE UNDERSTAND PORTUGUESE DECISIONS MUCH LESS IMMINENT AND TAKING THIS OCCASION CAUTION HIM ABOUT DAMAGE TO INDONESIAN IMAGE OF PRECIPITATE ACTION.

3. WE WOULD SUGGEST SUCH DEMARCHE ONLY AS MEANS OF ATTEMPTING QUIET CURRENT INDONESIAN ANXIETIES IF DEPARTMENT FEELS THIS IS USEFUL. WE ARE NOT SANGUINE THAT INDONESIA WOULD ACCEPT FRETELIN/UDT PROPOSAL BUT
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PAGE 02 JAKART 02482 271206Z

KNOWLEDGE OF IT MIGHT SLOW DOWN CURRENT APPARENT
RUSH TO ACTION. INDONESIAN REACTION TO ANY SUCH DEMARCHE
LIKELY TO DEPEND ON DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE THEY HAVE IN
GOOD FAITH AND STABILITY OF PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT.
THEY WOULD NEED BE CONVINCED, IF THEY WERE PREPARED TO
ACCEPT THIS FORMULA, THAT PORTUGUESE GENUINELY HAD
INTENTION OR ABILITY TO MONITOR TRANSITION PERIOD TO
INDONESIAN INTERESTS WERE PROTECTED. THIS MAY BE
DIFFICULT TO DO.
NEWSOM

SECRET

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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